

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMCONSUL BREMEN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1814

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINCEUR STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC REACTIONS TO STATIONING OF
U.S. BRIGADE IN GARLSTEDT/BREMERHAVEN AREA

1. THE PLAN TO STATION A U.S. BRIGADE IN THE GARLSTEDT/BREMERHAVEN AREA IN THE FALL OF 1977 HAS EVOKED MIXED OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC REACTIONS. RECEIVING MOST ATTENTION IN THE LOCAL MEDIA RECENTLY HAS BEEN THE OPPOSITION TO THE STATIONING GENERATED BY A GROUP OF LOCAL RESIDENTS IN GARLSTEDT AND BY BREMEN SUBURBANITES AND WEEKENDERS WHO ALLEGE THAT 2,400 TROOPS, WITH THEIR HEAVY EQUIPMENT, WILL DESPOIL THE BEAUTY OF THE MOOR WHERE MANY BREMENITES AND OTHERS GO FOR WEEKEND OUTINGS

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AND RECREATION. UNDER THE SLOGAN "RETTET DIE GARLSTEDTER

HEIDE" (SAVE THE GARLSTEDT MOOR), A NUMBER OF CITIZENS ORGANIZED A CITIZENS' ACTION GROUP (BUERGERINITIATIVE), WITH THE PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT OF A LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ORGANIZATION. THEY PUT UP NUMEROUS POSTERS WITH THE ABOVE SLOGAN AND COLLECTED SIGNATURES (REPORTEDLY 15,000) ON A PETITION TO SUPPORT THEIR STAND. ON NOVEMBER 1 THEY ORGANIZED A PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION IN GARLSTEDT AND VEGESACK WHICH REPORTEDLY ATTRACTED SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE. SPOKESMEN FOR THE GROUP, LED BY FEDERAL CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION (VEREIN ZUR FOERDERUNG DES UMWELTSCHUTZES), REQUESTED A MEETING WITH ME TO PRESENT THEIR CASE AND I HAD AGREED TO SEE THEM.

2. IN CONTRADISTINCTION TO THIS OPPOSITION BY THE BUERGERINITIATIVE SPONSORS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS, THE OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE STATIONING OF THE BRIGADE HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE, EVEN ENTHUSIASTIC. DURING MY OFFICIAL INTRODUCTORY CALLS ON THE BREMEN AND BREMERHAVEN BUERGERMEISTERS, BOTH EXPRESSED THEMSELVES ENTHUSIASTICALLY ABOUT THE PLAN OF STATIONING THE TROOPS, STRESSED THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, THE POPULATION, AND U.S. FORCES THROUGH THE YEARS IN THE BREMEN/BREMERHAVEN AREA AND PLEDGED THEIR FULL SUPPORT. THE BREMERHAVEN BUERGERMEISTER REFERRED TO THE BUERGERINITIATIVE AS "A STORM IN A TEAPOT" AND AGAIN REITERATED HIS VIEWS TO ME IN THIS MATTER ON NOVEMBER 3 AT MY RECEPTION ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMERCIAL SPRECHTAG IN BREMERHAVEN. ON THE SAME OCCASION TWO OSTERHOLZ KREIS (COUNTY) OFFICIALS, IN WHICH GARLSTEDT IS LOCATED, HANDED ME A COPY OF THE KREISTAG (COUNTY COUNCIL) RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 28 BY A VOTE OF 31:1, SUPPORTING THE STATIONING OF THE BRIGADE IN THEIR AREA, ALBEIT WITH EXPRESSED CONDITIONS FOR THE CARE AND PRESERVATIONS OF THE NATURAL RECREATION AREA AND CERTAIN MONUMENTS LOCATED THEREIN. THEY TOO BELITTLED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BUERGERINITIATIVE.

3. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, LOCAL LEFTIST GROUPS (DKP AND KBW) TRIED, NOT VERY SUCCESSFULLY, TO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE FOR THEIR OWN IDEOLOGICAL PURPOSES. (A MORE DETAILED REPORT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.)SCHIFFMAN

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